

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-70 (canceled)

71. (previously presented) A method of shaping and cutting a dough sheet to sequentially form a plurality of dough pieces; comprising:

- a) providing a sheet of dough having a first surface with a first skin and a second surface with a second skin;
- b) providing a dough cutting apparatus having a movable cutter with a blunt dough engaging portion that extends sufficiently to sever the dough sheet, the blunt dough engaging portion having a dough shaping surface to shape and sever the dough sheet;
- c) causing the dough shaping surface of the blunt dough engaging portion to contact the first surface of the dough sheet and thereby drawing the first skin toward the second skin and substantially pinching the first and second skins together; and
- d) severing the dough sheet with the blunt dough engaging portion after the first skin and the second skin become substantially pinched together to form at least a portion of the plurality of dough pieces; and
- e) causing the moveable cutter to release the at least a portion of the plurality of dough pieces so that the dough pieces may be further processed.

72. (previously presented) The method of claim 71, wherein the sheet of dough is provided on a conveyor and caused to move in a direction substantially perpendicular to the extension of the blunt dough engaging portion.

73. (previously presented) A method of cutting a dough sheet; comprising:

- a) providing a sheet of dough having a first surface with a skin and a second surface with a second skin;
- b) providing a dough cutting apparatus comprising a plurality of structures having an outer periphery comprising a cutting edge and an inner periphery comprising a blunt edge dough engaging portion with a dough shaping surface, wherein the outer periphery is a geometric figure capable of being nested within other similarly shaped geometric figures and wherein the inner periphery is a different shape;
- c) causing the plurality of structures to contact the dough sheet thereby causing the inner periphery to draw the first skin toward the second skin without breaking the dough sheet until the first skin and the second skin become substantially pinched together; and
- d) causing the outer periphery to sever the dough sheet thereby creating a plurality of dough pieces.

74. (previously presented) The method of claim 73, wherein the method of producing the dough product further comprises a step of processing the dough pieces in a manner that results in the dough pieces expanding in volume, and whereby the enlarged dough pieces are maintained substantially with the geometric figure of the inner periphery.

Claims 75-77 (canceled)

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the amendment is now compliant with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.121. It is also respectfully submitted that the claims of the present application are now in condition for allowance. The prompt issuance of a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner believes that a phone conference could resolve any remaining issues in the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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